

Sinclair  
Broadcasting's  
decision to force  
their stations to  
air an anti-Kerry  
"documentary" days  
before the election  
is a clear example  
of the dangers of  
media consolidation.

A Sinclair official  
appeared on PBS's  
NewsHour tonight and  
claimed total  
objectivity. I doubt  
that he convinced  
very many viewers.

Sinclair uses the  
public airwaves free  
of charge, and is  
obligated by law to  
serve the public  
interest. The public  
deserves serious  
discussion of the  
issues and the  
candidates'  
positions on those  
issues in the last  
days before an  
election--not  
partisan diatribes  
against a candidate.

But when large  
companies control  
the airwaves, we get  
more of what's good  
for the bottom line  
and less of what we  
need for our  
democracy. Instead  
of something  
produced at "News  
Central" far away,  
it's more important  
that we see real  
people from our own  
communities and more  
substantive news  
about issues that  
matter.

Sinclair's actions  
show why we need to  
strengthen media  
ownership rules, not  
weaken them. They  
show why the license  
renewal process  
needs to involve  
more than a returned  
postcard. It was a  
serious mistake to  
have abolished the

Fairness Doctrine.  
Thank you.